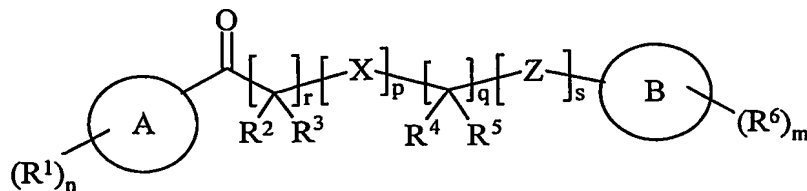


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is selected from aryl or heteroaryl;

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group or a C₃₋₅alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^8 ;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-4} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{10} ;

X and Z are independently selected from -CR¹¹R¹²-, -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR¹³-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR¹⁴-, -NR¹⁵C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -SO₂NR¹⁶- or -NR¹⁶SO₂-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

r is 1 or 2;

q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

s is 0 or 1;

Ring B is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁷;

- 5 **R⁶** is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl,
10 *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R¹⁸; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁹;

- 15 **m** is 0-3; wherein the values of R⁶ may be the same or different;

Y is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR²⁰-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR²¹-, -NR²²C(O)- or -SO₂NR²³-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

- R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁸** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl,
20 C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁸ may be independently optionally substituted on
25 carbon by one or more R²⁶;

- R¹¹ and R¹²** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl, heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R¹¹ and R¹² may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R²⁴; and wherein if said
30 heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R²⁵;

R²⁴ is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl,

C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl and C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino;

5 **R⁸, R¹⁰, R¹⁷, R¹⁹ and R²⁵** are independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R⁸, R¹⁰, R¹⁷, R¹⁹ and R²⁵ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R²⁷;

10 **R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R²⁰, R²¹, R²² and R²³** are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl and C₁₋₄alkyl;

R²⁶ and R²⁷ are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxymethyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, 15 diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphiny, ethylsulphiny, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;

20 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1;

 with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.

2. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in
25 claim 1 wherein Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, benzothiazolyl or benzothienyl.

3. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in
 either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R¹ is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl,
30 C₁₋₆alkoxy, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and
 heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two R¹ on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy
 group; wherein R¹ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected
 from R⁷;

Y is -S(O)_a-, or -O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and
R⁷ is halo.

4. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in
5 any one of claims 1-3 wherein R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from hydrogen,
hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl and
heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ may be independently optionally substituted
on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁹; wherein

R⁹ is selected from halo, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl and *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino.

10

5. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in
any one of claims 1-6 wherein X is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR¹³-, -NR¹⁵C(O)-, -SO₂NR¹⁶- or
-NR¹⁶SO₂-; wherein a is 0 or 2; and

R¹³, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl
15 and C₁₋₄alkyl.

6. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in
any one of claims 1-5 wherein Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl,
piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl,
20 imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl,
pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that
nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁷;

R¹⁷ is C₁₋₄alkyl or benzyl; wherein R¹⁷ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one
or more R²⁷; wherein

25 R²⁷ is methoxy.

7. The use of a compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in
any one of claims 1-6 wherein R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo,
hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino,
30 C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a
wherein a is 0 or 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl,
heterocyclyl and carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on

carbon by one or more groups selected from R^{18} ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{19} ;

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR²¹-;

R^{18} is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkoxy and heterocyclyl;

5 R^{19} is heterocyclyl; and

R^{21} is hydrogen.

8. The use of a compound of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1) wherein:

Ring A is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl,
10 benzothiazolyl or benzothienyl;

R^1 is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, *N,N*-(C₁₋₆alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₆alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected
15 from R^7 ;

Y is -S(O)_a-, or -O-; wherein a is 0 to 2; and

R^7 is halo.

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

r is 1 or 2;

20 s is 0;

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9 ; wherein

25 R^9 is selected from halo, cyano, C₁₋₄alkyl and *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino.

X is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR¹³-, -NR¹⁵C(O)-, -SO₂NR¹⁶- or -NR¹⁶SO₂-; wherein a is 0 or 2;
and

R^{13} , R^{15} and R^{16} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl and C₁₋₄alkyl;

30 q is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

Ring B is phenyl, thienyl, furyl, thiazolyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, 1,3-dihydroisindolyl, morpholinyl, naphthyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl,

1,3-benzodioxolyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, benzimidazolyl or pyrimidinyl; wherein if Ring B contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁷;

R¹⁷ is C₁₋₄alkyl or benzyl; wherein R¹⁷ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one
5 or more R²⁷; wherein

R²⁷ is methoxy;

R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 or 2,
10 C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R¹⁸; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁹;

Y is -C(O) or -C(O)NR²¹-;

15 R¹⁸ is selected from halo, cyano, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkoxy and heterocyclyl;

R¹⁹ is heterocyclyl; and

R²¹ is hydrogen;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R⁶ may be the same or different;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

20 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11βHSD1;

with the proviso that said compound is not (1-methyl-1-pyrid-3-ylethyl)-(pyrid-3-yl)-ketone.

9. A compound of formula (I) (as depicted in claim 1) selected from:

[2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrid-3-yl)ethyl]-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

25 [2-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-(pyrazin-2-yl)ethyl]-(pyridin-3-yl)-ketone;

(α-methylamino-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

(benzothiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

(thiazol-2-yl)-(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;

[1-(morpholinosulphonyl)-1-methylethyl]-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;

30 (4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(cyclohexyl)-*N*-(isopropyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-fluorophenyl)-[*N*-(pyrid-2-yl)-*N*-(methyl)sulphamoylmethyl]-ketone;

(4-methylphenylsulphonylmethyl)-(4-cyanophenyl)-ketone;

(4-ethoxyphenoxymethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

(4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(2,6-difluorobenzoylamino) propyl]-ketone; and
 (4-chlorophenyl)-[3-(4-methoxyphenylsulphonylamino)propyl]-ketone;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

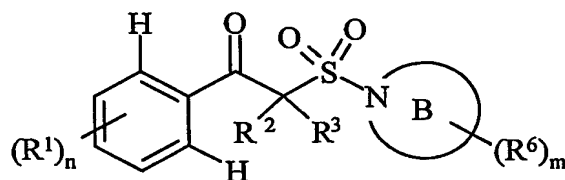
5 10. The use of a compound of formula (Ij) (as depicted in claim 1) selected from:

(α -methyl- α -hydroxy-4-chlorobenzyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;
 (morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-fluorophenyl)-ketone;
 (*N*-methyl-4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone; and
 (*N*-methyl-4-chloroanilinomethyl)-(4-chlorophenyl)-ketone;

10 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the inhibition of 11 β HSD1.

11. A compound of formula (Ij):



(Ij)

15

wherein:

R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6} alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6} alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6} alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC₀₋₆alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxyC₁₋₄alkoxy group or a C₃₋₅alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7 ; and wherein if
 20 said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a
 25 group selected from R^8 ;

n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano,

C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, C_{1-4} alkylS(O)_a wherein a is

30 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl,

heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl and heterocyclylC₁₋₄alkyl; or R² and R³ together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R² and R³ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁹; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group
5 selected from R¹⁰;

Ring B is a heterocyclyl linked to the sulphonyl of formula (Ij) via a nitrogen atom; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁷;

R⁶ is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino,
10 carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl,
15 heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R¹⁸; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R¹⁹;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R⁶ may be the same or different;

20 Y is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR²⁰-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR²¹-, -NR²²C(O)- or -SO₂NR²³-; wherein a is 0 to 2;

R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁸ are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino,
25 *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein a is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl; wherein R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁸ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R²⁶;

30 R⁸, R¹⁰, R¹⁷ and R¹⁹ are independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and

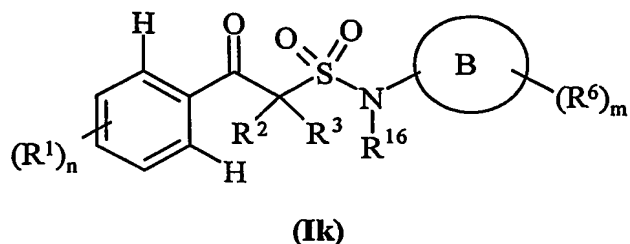
phenylsulphonyl; wherein R^8 , R^{10} , R^{17} and R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{27} ;

R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulphonyl and C_{1-4} alkyl;

- 5 R^{26} and R^{27} are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; with the proviso that said compound is not

- 15 (phenyl)-[α -(pyrrolidin-1-ylsulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[α -(morpholinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone;
 (4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-carbamoylphenyl)-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-fluorophenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 20 (phenyl)-[4-(5-chloropyridin-2-yloxy)piperidin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-chlorophenyl)-(piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (4-chlorophenyl)-[4-(*t*-butoxycarbonyl)piperazin-1-ylsulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (4-hydroxyphenyl)-(morpholinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; or
 (phenyl)-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-2-ylsulphonylmethyl)-ketone; and with the proviso
 25 that when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, *m* is 0 and Ring B is 4-methylpiperazin-1-yl, then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen, 4-fluoro, 4-nitro, 3,4-dimethoxy, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl or 4-chloro; and with the proviso that when R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, *m* is 0 and Ring B is morpholino then $(R^1)_n$ is not hydrogen, 4-dimethylamino, 4-nitro, 4-methoxy, 4-*t*-butyl, 4-trifluoromethyl, 4-fluoro or 4-chloro.

12. A compound of formula (Ik):



wherein:

- 5 R^1 is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl) $_2$ amino, C_{1-6} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylS(O) $_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, N -(C_{1-6} alkyl)sulphamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-6} alkyl) $_2$ sulphamoyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl C_{0-6} alkylene-Y- and heterocyclyl C_{0-6} alkylene-Y-; or two R^1 on adjacent carbons may form an oxy C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{3-5} alkylene group; wherein R^1 may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^7 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^8 ;
- 10 n is 0-3; wherein the values of R^1 may be the same or different;
- R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, cyano, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl) $_2$ amino, C_{1-4} alkylS(O) $_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonylamino, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyl C_{1-4} alkyl and heterocyclyl C_{1-4} alkyl; or R^2 and R^3 together form oxo or a spiro attached heterocyclyl; wherein R^2 and R^3 may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^9 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{10} ;
- 20 **Ring B** is carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{17} ;
- R^6 is a substituent on carbon and is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkanoyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyloxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl) $_2$ amino, C_{1-4} alkanoylamino, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)carbamoyl, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl) $_2$ carbamoyl, C_{1-4} alkylS(O) $_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4} alkoxycarbonyl,
- 30

N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y- and heterocyclylC₀₋₄alkylene-Y-; wherein R⁶ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R¹⁸; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a
 5 group selected from R¹⁹;

m is 0-3; wherein the values of R⁶ may be the same or different;

Y is -S(O)_a-, -O-, -NR²⁰-, -C(O)-, -C(O)NR²¹-, -NR²²C(O)- or -SO₂NR²³-; wherein *a* is
 0 to 2;

R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁸ are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino,
 10 carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₂₋₄alkenyl, C₂₋₄alkynyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, C₁₋₄alkanoylamino, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂carbamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylS(O)_a wherein *a* is 0 to 2, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂sulphamoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonylamino, carbocyclyl
 15 and heterocyclyl; wherein R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁸ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R²⁶;

R⁸, R¹⁰, R¹⁷ and R¹⁹ are independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkanoyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₄alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)carbamoyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl and
 20 phenylsulphonyl; wherein R⁸, R¹⁰, R¹⁷ and R¹⁹ may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R²⁷;

R¹⁶, R²⁰, R²¹, R²² and R²³ are independently selected from hydrogen, phenyl, C₁₋₄alkylsulphonyl and C₁₋₄alkyl;

R²⁶ and R²⁷ are independently selected from selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy,
 25 trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxyl, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphanyl, ethylsulphanyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl,
 30 ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl or *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that said compound is not

- (phenyl)-(5-methylpyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[(2-methyl-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-4-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(1-phenyl-3-methylpyrazol-5-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 5 (phenyl)-[1-(cyclohexyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[1-(phenyl-*N*-methylaminosulphonyl)ethyl]-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(cyclohexylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl)-*N*-methylaminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 e; (phenyl)-[(2-phenyl-4-acetyl-5-methylimidazol-3-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 10 (phenyl)-(2,4,5,6,7,8-hexahydrocycloheptapyrazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-2H-indazol-3-ylaminosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[(4-phenyl-5-methylpyrazol-3-yl)aminosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 (phenyl)-[3-(1-carboxymethyl-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl)anilinosulphonylmethyl]-ketone;
 15 (phenyl)-{3-[1-(methoxycarbonylmethyl)-3-methyl-4-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrophthalazin-2-yl]anilinosulphonylmethyl}-ketone; (phenyl)-(4-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(2-benzoyl-4-chloroanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(2,3-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(3,4-dimethylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 20 (phenyl)-(3-methylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(3-methoxyanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 (phenyl)-(anilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone; (phenyl)-(2-acetylanilinosulphonylmethyl)-ketone;
 or (phenyl)-[α -(*N*-ethylanilinosulphonyl)benzyl]-ketone.

25 13. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

14. A compound of the formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, for use in a method of prophylactic or
 30 therapeutic treatment of a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

15. A compound of the formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, for use as a medicament.

16. The use of a compound of the formula **(I)**, **(Ij)** or **(Ik)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 9, 11 or 12, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the production of an 11β HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man.

17. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11β HSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of metabolic syndrome.

18. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11β HSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidaemia, hyperglycaemia, hyperinsulinemia or hypertension, particularly diabetes and obesity.

19. The use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1-8, 10 or 16 wherein production of, or producing an, 11β HSD1 inhibitory effect refers to the treatment of glaucoma, osteoporosis, tuberculosis, dementia, cognitive disorders or depression.

20. A method for producing an 11β HSD1 inhibitory effect in a warm-blooded animal, such as man, in need of such treatment which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula **(I)**, as claimed in any one of claims 1-10, or a compound of formula **(Ik)** as claimed in claim 11, or a compound of formula **(Ij)** as claimed in claim 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.